

ASHOVER PARISH COUNCIL

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NEWSLETTER 2 - 2022/2023 **Summer**

CONTENTS

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE	1
Safety along The A632 at Kelstedge and Span Carr and Pollution in the River Amber	1
Ashover Parish Platinum Jubilee – June 2022	2
Ashover Parish Playground – Opening	3
River Amber - pollution	3
Climate Change Working Group Report	5
Ashover Footpaths and Bridleways Group Report	5
New Information Board on ‘Jim’s Field’, Alton	5
Litter Picking	6
Parish Clerk	7
District and County Councillors	7
USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS	7

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

Safety along The A632 at Kelstedge and Span Carr and Pollution in the River Amber

**5.30PM TO 7.30PM FRIDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2022 IN
THE BASSETT ROOMS, CHURCH STREET, ASHOVER**

The main purpose of the meeting is to discuss road safety issues along the A632, especially through Kelstedge and at Span Carr crossroads and pollution of the River Amber.

Attending the meeting will be Lee Rowley MP, DCC Councillor Barry Lewis and representatives of the Highways Office and the Police. We’ve also invited Severn Trent to send a member of their team and are awaiting a response.

This meeting is a great opportunity for members of the public to raise their concerns on current issues and we’re hoping for a good turnout.

Ashover Parish Platinum Jubilee – June 2022

Celebrations began on Thursday 2 June 2022 when Ashover parish hall put on an evening of varied musical entertainment to a packed audience which also included a spectacular firework display, organised by Ashover Parish Council, at around 10pm on the playing field; this was very well received and enjoyed by all.

On Saturday 4 June 2022 the celebrations continued with a full day of entertainment held on Church Street which was closed for the event. Over 30 stalls, including local organisations from the parish, plus charity stalls and others, filled the street with colour and activity.



The maypole dancing was watched by many, it was a very popular part of the day and the children were very impressive.

The day was led by our own Town Crier, Merrick Bull, who has that special touch we all admire.

At 11am the parade gathered for the walk down Church Street prior to the crowning of the Jubilee Queen and King who had attendants, all the children taking part carried red white and blue flowers and a Corgi dog accompanied the Queen.

The parade was represented by Chairman Edward Willmot and his wife Beryl on behalf of Ashover Parish Council, All Saints Church Ashover was represented by Revd Dr Peter Bold and his wife Candy, and a well-known couple Jenny & John Hammond who were to crown the Jubilee Queen and King.

Also in the parade were artists taking part during the day which included Ripley Morris, Chesterfield Garland Dancers, Carlo the Clown's magic show plus Punch & Judy, Mummers Play and Sensible Shoes Harmony Group. Lots of mums and dads, children and anyone who wanted to be in the parade, joined with enthusiasm.



The parade was led up Church Street by Ashover Brass Band who marched and played to everyone's delight as crowds clapped and cheered.

During the day there was an organ recital and singing by Ashover Celebration Choir in Church and light refreshments were served in the Church and also in the Bassett Rooms.

After the crowning, there were children eager to take part in the races (one of which was the very popular "hedgehog rolling"). This was followed by the very popular "family fun run" and the crowds were not disappointed as they all ran their very best, cheered on by everyone.

Children and adults enjoyed the fun and games on offer including a bouncy slide, Punch and Judy, 'Welly Wang' and Mummers Play.

On Sunday 5 June 2022 there was to be an outdoor thanksgiving service on the playing fields, but unfortunately the heavens opened and it rained, so the service was held in All Saints Church, Ashover.

Parish Pubs also provided entertainment including local bands and fun and games to celebrate the Jubilee weekend, helping to make it a Jubilee to remember.

Ashover Parish Council wishes to thank everyone who supported these events including sponsors and volunteers. Without their support, events like this would not be possible.

Ashover Parish Playground – Opening

After the disruption caused by the Pandemic, we thought it would be a great idea to combine the delayed, formal opening of the playground with our Jubilee celebrations! Next, we had to decide what the event might look like and rather than going for a traditional plaque we opted for another idea.

In the early stages of the playground project, we had some great design suggestions fed through to us by Ashover Primary School and through social media and in turn we shared these with the specialist companies who expressed an interest in taking on the contract. Given the success of this



we decided we would again ask local children for their input and the way we did this was to invite contributions for a mural. This initiative was led by local, talented artist, Lily Hammond and she received around 200 drawings and images which she captured on the mural. We think you'll agree the end result looks fantastic!

This picture shows Lily and Town Crier, Merrick, unveiling the mural and formally declaring the playground open.

River Amber - pollution

In November last year there was an article in the Derby Telegraph, drawing attention to the fact that 20 Derbyshire rivers had raw sewage pumped into them last year. One of these was the River Amber at Ashover where there were 127 discharges by Severn Trent, lasting a total of 49 days. This was of major concern to Ashover Parish Council and we raised the issue with Lee Rowley, our MP, and direct with Severn Trent. We asked 3 specific questions of them, and we have set these out below along with the responses from Severn Trent. These responses do not fully address our concerns but we wanted to share the latest developments within the parish and we will share further updates.

Extract from letter from Ashover Parish Council to Severn Trent – November 2021

“As the prospect of new housing both planned and in progress emerges, Members ask the following:-

- 1) *What infrastructure investment plans are being made to address this problem?*
- 2) *What plans are being made to mitigate the problems in the interim period?*
- 3) *Should there be a more challenging assessment on developments, of any kind, at the planning application stage?”*

Response from Severn Trent – July 2022

“Many thanks for your Environmental Information Request 2004, relating to the River Amber. We share your concern regards the need to protect the health of our rivers.

At Severn Trent we believe that river health is essential not only to the communities we serve, but also to our ability to provide vital water on tap. We take our responsibilities to not only protect them, but also to enhance them very seriously, and are playing a leading role in this. To provide more information about our commitments and actual performance we have created a new microsite. Please see below links to our River Positive Pledges, which share our approach and commitments, alongside our actual environmental performance. As part of the pledges, we are committing to reducing overflow spills to an average of 20 per year across our region by 2025.

1. Link to our future commitments to improve River health [Link to our future commitment to improve River health](#)

2. The EA assesses and publishes sector environmental performance - and we have achieved the highest accolade four star status over the last two years [Link to the Environment Agency \(EA\) sector environmental performance](#)

With regards to your specific questions:

1. **What infrastructure investment plans are being made to address this problem (as prospect of new housing both planned and in progress emerges).**
2. **What plans are being made to mitigate the problems in the interim period?**

We actively engage with our developers on an ongoing basis, at present no developments have been submitted via the formal application process in this area.

We have received a small number of initial inquiries for a very small number of dwellings in the Ashover area, and we continue to monitor population growth in the area.

However, without a formal proposition containing volumes and development details it is not possible to perform an accurate impact assessment across our network to design an appropriate solution for any new developments.

Whilst the 2020 monitoring data indicates, there were a total of 127 spills recorded from the Ashover treatment works where there are two monitoring devices at this site. It should be noted that the event duration monitor recording the spills at Ashover treatment works (STW) was unfortunately not operating correctly for this period. We reported this in our annual submissions to the environment agency (EA). We have conducted maintenance and the devices are now operating as required.

To ensure transparency, our annual event duration monitoring data (EDM) can be accessed on our website <https://www.stwater.co.uk/get-river-positive/event-duration-monitor-edm-report-5/>.

As confirmed by the EA's assessment we are in the top quartile in the sector on our spills performance and our annual average spill count is below the water company average. However, we want to improve on this position, and so you will see from our River Positive pledges that we are setting ourselves a target to reduce spills over the next three years from 27 to 20 on average, despite an increased number of assets being covered by our monitoring programme. This may seem like a small number, but the effort involved is not insignificant.

Storm overflows are critical assets which have been historically designed into sewerage networks to reduce the risk of flooding to homes.

Every solution to reduce spills from storm overflows, needs assessment of the risk of flooding and wider environmental impact. Hence, we need to undertake detailed hydraulic modelling to ensure we do not cause other detrimental effects to customers or the environment as we reduce spills from storm overflows. In many cases complex engineering solutions will be needed to accommodate the increased volume of water during storm events or ideally to remove the storm water flows with nature based Sustainable Urban Drainage (SuDS) solutions, which often involves significant advanced planning and liaison with landowners, highways authorities, other third parties and regulatory bodies in order to design, gain the necessary approvals and safely construct the solutions.

3. **Should there be a more challenging assessment of developments, of any kind, at the planning application stage?**

Although we are not statutory consultees in the planning process, we engage with developers to understand their plans and potential impacts on our sewerage network. It is the developer's responsibility to contact the local council who then liaise with our Asset Protection team for consultation. Therefore, it is important that local councils provide us with early sight of forthcoming development plans by communicating with a timely response. In instances where developers have not provided us with formal intent or details of the scale of the sewerage and volumes we will have to adopt, we are unable to effectively plan and assess the impact such developments may have on the sewerage network

As part of our River Pledges, we are campaigning for the removal of the automatic right to connect "rain" and other 'grey' water into the sewage network. We generally have ample capacity for sewage; it is the excess rainwater that can cause difficulty. We would prefer the rainwater is re-used on site, or drained naturally as opposed to connecting into the sewerage network"

Climate Change Working Group Report

The Climate Change working group has been quite active behind the scenes recently.

You may have seen the yellow hatching adjacent to the entrance to the village car park; this is the area set aside for the new bicycle rack which was funded by a grant from Ashover Community Medical Centre Ltd.

Installation is expected imminently to please make use of this new facility if you can. Short trips into the village on a bike rather than a car will save you money on fuel and help the climate as well by reducing CO² emissions.

The group has also been working with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and local residents to identify and map wildlife corridors in our parish. Wildlife corridors are strips of natural habitat connecting populations of wildlife otherwise separated by cultivated land, roads, etc. We are all seeing the effects of climate change on our weather, especially the very hot days and reduced rainfall in July, and it is important to try to protect our wildlife.

You can do simple things at home to help protect wildlife if you have a garden. In hot weather, leave a dish of water out for birds, insects and mammals to drink. You can leave parts of your grass uncut to support grasses and flowers that will support insects.

Every little helps.

Ashover Footpaths and Bridleways Group Report

- 1) The County Council has erected the following replacement finger posts, which are all metal:-
Rattle end of path 43, heading to Appletree Knoll,
Both ends of FP 46 (Rattle to Marsh Green),
Marsh Green exit to FP 47 (to Butts Corner),
FP 129, from Highashes Lane (to Matlock Main Road),
FP 100 to Wilkin House (off Hodge Lane Uppertown).
FP 99 to Shooters Lea, from Hodge Lane.
FP 29 at the exit from Alton Lane, Littlemoor towards Alton.
Fp125 by Alicehead.
FP 105 near Roaches Farm, at access from Darley Road.
BW 56/67 Overton Back Lane and FP91 to Miners' Arms.
- 2) A new bench has been sited on the footpath by Robriding Farm, just off Vernon Lane (Ashover 120). As usual, the bench was built and placed by members of Bolsover Woodland Enterprises. It has great view of the new wild life ponds and also the magnificent countryside to the west of Kelstedge.
- 3) The landowner has instigated repairs to the ancient clapper bridge on Footpath 48, by Butts corner. He has also done surface work; a huge improvement.
- 4) Repairs have been done by volunteers on the stone squeeze stile on the path between Highashes Farm and Hazelhurst Farm (FP 6).
- 5) Repairs to a house owner's boundary wall have also helped to improve the stile between fields on FP 43: from The Rattle to Appletree Knoll (Ashover).

New Information Board on 'Jim's Field', Alton



The new Information Board on Jim's Field was installed by Ellis and James Townley from Bolsover Woodlands Enterprise on Friday 17th June 2022. Ashover Parish Council awarded a £230 grant to 'Alton Community Land' towards this project. To find out more, please visit the website:-

<https://altoncommunityland.wordpress.com/>

Litter Picking

On Wednesday 13th July 1st Ashover Brownies and 1st Ashover Guides did some litter picking for the 'Environment' section of the Girlguiding Derbyshire County Challenge badge.

It was a lovely warm evening and the Brownies headed up to Highoredish Picnic site for an hour of litter picking, with a guest appearance from Richard Felton who was on hand to tell them about the history of the area and guide them along the path to look at one of the quarries at the end of the evening. It was lovely to see the girls so excited about helping their community and although there was no competition for the most amount of litter collected each group was desperate to try and get more than the other groups. Thankfully the site seems to be pretty well looked after at the moment as we did not find vast quantities of rubbish, enough to keep them busy for an hour though! The Brownies ended the evening with an ice lolly, ensuring all their litter went into the rubbish bags. It was time for Guides and the Guides headed up to Ashover Rock from Ashover Parish Hall. There wasn't quite as much competition from the Guides but they were enjoying doing their bit for the community all the same. Richard again met us at the top and again was on hand to tell the girls about the history. The girls then spent 15 minutes searching for litter around the rock before enjoying their well-earned ice lolly whilst admiring the view. We then returned back to the Parish Hall. Again we did not find vast quantities of rubbish which was nice but there was enough to keep them occupied on the walk to, from and around the rock.

Thank you to the Parish Council for lending us some very good litter pickers and North-East Derbyshire District Council for providing rubbish bags and lending us some further litter pickers and to Richard for his guest appearances and assistance with planning the evenings.

ASHOVER PARISH COUNCIL - COUNCILLORS

- **William Armitage** 07813 321215
Flat 1 Causeway House, Kelstedge, Ashover S45 0DW
- **Helen Boffy** (07515 280707)
Langford House Narrowleys Lane Ashover S45 0AU
- **John Cook** (07803 230702)
Farhill House, Milken Lane, Ashover S45 0BB
- **Steve Dronfield** (01246) 590721
Willow Tree Farm, Hunger Hill Lane, Stonedge S45 0LP
- **Nigel Early** (01246) 590738
Lexley Gables, Hockley Lane, Ashover S45 0ER
- **Rosemary Early** (01246) 590738
Lexley Gables, Hockley Lane, Ashover S45 0ER
- **Richard Fidler** (01246) 590155 (**Vice-Chairman**)
Porthlea, Alton Lane, Littlemoor S45 0BE
- **Lucy Hunter-Bott** 07976 733607
Marshbrook, Butts Road, Ashover S45 0HW
- **Chris Miller** (01246) 590253
Hill House, Hill Road, Ashover S45 0BU
- **Ed Willmot** (01246) 590260 (**Chairman**)
The Pines, Hill Road, Ashover S45 0BZ

Parish Clerk

- Parish Clerk/Burial Clerk: Sara Atkinson
Tel (01246) 863018
E-Mail parishclerk@ashover-pc.gov.uk
Sports Pavilion, Milken Lane, Ashover S45 0BA

District and County Councillors

- **North East Derbyshire District Councillor - William Armitage** 07813 321215
Flat 1 Causeway House, Kelstedge, Ashover S45 0DW
- **Derbyshire County Councillor – Barry Lewis** (01773) 830871
2 King George St, Wessington S55 6DZ

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

Derbyshire County Council – 01629 580000 or 01629 533190

North East Derbyshire District Council - 01246 231111

Police – NON-URGENT calls to report crime, anti-social behaviour, non-violent crime or general information: 101 **Please note:** You **MUST** continue to use 999 where a crime is in progress, for serious crime or where violence is being used.

Citizens Advice – Providing consumer advice, free of charge, on a range of issues or complaints.
Website: www.adviceguide.org.uk Tel. 08454 040506